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A FEW HENS

THE POULTRY PAPER FOR BEGINNERS.

VOL. 5.

BOSTON, MASS., OCT. 15, 1901.

NO. 4.

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A FEW HENS, Box 2118, Boston, Mass.

EDITORIAL HINTS.

Fall rains.
Cool nights.
Cull closely.
Forge ahead.
Try trap nests.
Stop the leaks.
Buy stock now.
Buy new blood.
Plan for Winter.
Work for utility.
Avoid excitement.
Clean up the runs.
Examine the roofs.
"Don't look back."
Cheapest is not best.
Improve your stock.
Don't Winter drones.
Keep the breed pure.
Store away the leaves.
Sell the surplus males.
Are the pullets laying?
Investigate all failures.
Get rid of the mongrels.
Have you farm-poultry?
Old hens are unprofitable.
Order the scratching litter.
Best is not always cheapest.
Fall whitewashing in order.
Brown-egg craze is growing.
Fanciers are born, not made.
Success will come—work on.
Have everything convenient.
Stay-white breeds are wanted.
Remove the stumbling blocks.
One and two-year hens are best.

Experimental Farm Notes.

*Right in the Midst of Molting Season—
Lessons Taught During Four Years
Experimenting—General Notes and
Comments.*

At this writing we are right in the midst of the molting season. The fowls on A FEW HENS Experimental Farm are looking very ragged, which condition is apt to convey a very poor impression to the visitor who is not booked in poultry lore. But, thank goodness, this state is only for a short time, and when the new feathers come what a wondrous change takes place.

The early molting hens will be through in time to help supply the demand for eggs when the prices are up at top notch. As early in July as possible, we removed all the male birds from the pens, so that the hens might go through their molt in better condition. We do this every year and find that it is a help to both the males and females.

We have been noticing for some years that if a hen has any weakness, or if she has become diseased by overfat, she will sooner or later show it when she is in her molt. In many cases such a condition proves fatal. It is here where a good reliable condition powder (like Sheridan's) proves valuable. By adding it two or three times a week to the morning mash it gives a tonic that will carry one-half if not more such birds through safely.

We also change the feed by increasing the quantity of wheat and wheat bran, and decreasing the amount of corn and cornmeal. To still further assist, we increase the quantity of linseed meal. This gives feather-food and tonic at the same time.

A FEW HENS Experimental Farm started November, 1896, with a pen of Light Brahma fowls purchased from I. K. Felch & Son, Natick, Mass. The pen consisted of five May-hatched pullets, three February-hatched pullets, and a two-year old hen, mother of the pullets, and two cockerels.

During the next Spring we purchased White Wyandottes and Single Comb White Leghorn eggs from prominent

breeders, which gave us a good start in these varieties.

With that humble beginning we established the farm, until today we have a plant that is complete as far as it goes. Still, we have many more improvements in mind, the bulk of which we hope to finish during this year.

Our readers have followed us faithfully during these years, and noted our progress, our trials and our triumphs. We have tested all sorts of appliances, feed and breeds, and believe have done lots of good in these impartial trials.

In breeds we have found, after repeated trials, that no Asiatic will combine all the good points and features as the Light Brahma. No American varieties will outclass the Barred Plymouth Rocks and the White Wyandottes. But we must reserve our opinion on the S. C. White Leghorns, as we have not given other varieties of the Mediterranean class a trial. Accordingly, as we announced in last issue, we expect the coming season to pit the S. C. Brown Leghorns and the S. C. Black Minorcas against the S. C. White Leghorns to see if they will equal or beat our favorites. The trial will be made with the aid of trap nests, and the contest will be noted each month.

Where a person wishes to cater almost exclusively to a meat market (and also a Winter egg trade), he will make no mistake in keeping three varieties, viz: Light Brahmas for large-sized roasting fowls.

Barred Plymouth Rocks for medium-sized roasting fowls and Spring chickens.

White Wyandottes for small-sized roasting fowls and broilers.

If his market does not call for large-sized roasters, then it is advisable to cut out the Brahmas and keep only the other two mentioned.

If the market does not call for broilers, then either the Plymouth Rocks or Wyandottes would fill the bill, and in that case it would be advisable to keep only one variety.

There are not two breeds in the United States that are more popular among market poultrymen than the Rocks and the 'Dottes. They need no booming. They stand on their own merits.

In last issue we explained why we dropped the other varieties we had from the list.

* * *

We have had considerable experience the past few years in mating breeds for best results, and find that it is a mistake to have too small sized flocks. On the other hand, it is a mistake to have them too large. Overcrowding will not only cut down the egg yield, but it is apt to introduce such vices as feather-pulling and egg-eating.

Sixteen to twenty females of Light Brahmas in a flock will, by alternating males, give better fertility and stronger chicks than smaller families. To keep the same male in a flock the entire season will, as a rule, cripple the fertility of the egg. We use two males for each pen, in Brahmas, alternating each night. This requires a little extra work, but it pays for all the additional labor involved.

In the American class we run about the same—even going as high as twenty-five females in a flock.

In the Mediterranean we run from twenty to thirty.

As a rule, however, we do not advise larger families than twenty-five females in any breed. The idea of alternating males is to do away with favoritism, and also to offset the habit of some males in refusing to eat, insisting on calling up the hens instead. In this way the male does not get sufficient food to properly keep up his strength. Another evil that is offset is the habit of hens pulling feathers. If there is a feather-eater in the flock, she will invariably begin on the male. By alternating, the hens are thrown more off their guard. Last year we had a bad feather puller in one of our Wyandotte pens, and she was practically cured by continually changing males. Another vice is picking the male birds' combs. If there is a possible chance for the hen to draw blood she will pick and pick the comb, very often ruining it. When we find the hens doing this, we remove the victim, and substitute a new male. In a few days, after being anointed with vaseline, the sore spot will properly heal up.

* * *

We are still feeding but two meals a day, but by next month expect to begin again the three meal diet. That is, we will start the noon meal again if the hens are practically over their molt. For good laying and strong fertility, it is necessary to feed well of such foods as will give the desired results. Such articles as whole wheat, bran, middlings, ground oats, clover hay, meat scraps or green cut bone, and linseed meal, with cracked corn and corn meal by way of variety, are invaluable for keeping the pens in good health, good egg production, and good fertility.

We do not feed cut clover hay and green cut bone during the Summer season, as the fowls have more or less green stuff, and the prepared meat scraps keep in a purer and better condition than green bone. Tainted meat must not be fed.

During the Summer we do not use scratching litter in our hen houses, for the reason that we have a loose, sandy soil, and during warm weather the fowls

find it so loose and light that they are continually scratching in it. But in Fall (about November) we begin putting this litter in the pens again, and keep them supplied until the next Summer. We should advise, however, in heavy soiled countries, keeping scratching litter in the pens the year round, in cases where the fowls are confined to yards.

* * *

During August the highest price received for eggs was 24 cents a dozen; lowest, 22 cents; average, 23 cents.

Eggs and Egg Farming.

Don't Kill the Hen that Lays the Golden Egg—Aim at Good Laying and Good Sized Eggs.

Eggs are not fit for food unless fresh.

Eggs, like corn, are used for other purposes than food.

Molting continues—and eggs continue to be remarkable for their scarcity.

Cracked eggs are generally sold to bakers, confectioners and cheap restaurants.

Daniel Pinckney, the famous Houdan expert, says he had a hen that laid 91 eggs in 100 days.

Calico printers buy from five to eight million dozen eggs a year in the United States, mostly bought in New England markets.

It is claimed that one biscuit firm in New York buys four thousand dozen eggs per week, or more than two hundred thousand dozen per year.

Coffee roasters, manufacturers of photograph supplies, cracker and biscuit makers and the chemical trade, are estimated to use in the United States 80,000,000 dozens a year.

A hen that has to be cold in the day time and cold at night, will not do anything else but attempt to keep warm, and while she may fail in this she will certainly fail to do anything else.

Twenty million dollars worth of eggs were exported last year, and the amount sent from the United States makes a small show in comparison with those sent from Canada or France and Germany to England.

Keep the fowls in good health, keep them active, give them plenty of exercise by giving them something to exercise for, says *Poultry Farmer*. They will show you that it does not require August days to make them cackle.

Chicago reports that when a box of "fresh country eggs" was opened there recently at a commission house, 91 live chicks scrambled over the other unhatched eggs. The commission man feels that he will have to make returns for the chickens and eggs. It takes twenty-one days to hatch hens' eggs. Where were those "fresh" eggs all that time? But then foolish questions often spoil improbable incidents. The hen that produces 120 eggs a year will pay her way and should be entertained royally on the farm, says *Iowa Homestead*. To know what a hen is doing is a requisite to the improvement. When it is known that a hen

produces from fifteen to thirty pounds of eggs in a year it means that she must be fed so as to assist her in doing so. She should have the kind of feed that contains the elements of the egg in their most available form.

Texas Farm and Ranch recommends, in gathering eggs, whether for market or home use, to take a soft pencil and mark each egg with the date of its birth. This takes but little time and frequently prevents loss, by age, as in using eggs from a box or basket the same ones may be left until they become stale. The abbreviated numerical date is sufficient, thus: 5-8, meaning 5th month and 8th day, or May 8th.

The makers of patent food preparations, tanners, liquor refiners and dye manufacturers, need a great many eggs in their business. Some of them require as good eggs as there are, while some can use them while they are at their worst, and if there was some way to get all the stale eggs that are sold for fresh ones used only for the purposes for which they are still fit, what a blessing it would be to persons who want fresh eggs, but do not always get them.

Iowa Homestead says the hen should get through the molt early in the Fall, and get down to business before the Winter sets in, and she should have a variety of egg-producing feeds and a good warm house; then, if she does not lay eggs in Winter it will be her fault. Never expect the hens to make bricks without straw, as was demanded of the Hebrews under Egyptian bondage. Is it reasonable to expect eggs from hens in Winter that are fed on a Winter diet and kept in cold storage? New Orleans boasts of a hen that is laying evidently for the champion prize for largest eggs. She has produced an egg weighing six and one-sixth ounces, is four and ten-sixteenth inches in length and seven and three-fourth inches in circumference. The *Picayune* says: "The hen refused to give her name, saying that she followed the example of her illustrious ancestor. She stated, however, that she was originally of Creole blood, but that her family had intermarried with the Leghorns."

The *Rural New-Yorker* says: "A 'guaranteed egg company' is building a large poultry plant in Monmouth County, New Jersey. It is stated that \$50,000 will be expended in equipments. When everything is completed the aim will be to deliver 2,000 eggs daily in New York, guaranteed not to be over eight hours' old. The farm comprises 87 acres, the greater part of which is now in grass." That is the same concern which A FEW HENS some time ago predicted would be a failure. The "expectations" are entirely too great.

The importance of keeping as many fowls as possible may be demonstrated by the fact that eggs are usually in demand at all seasons of the year and can be sold for cash, says the *Philadelphia Record*. In proportion to the capital invested in poultry compared with larger stocks the profit is very large. The fowls give returns every

month in the year, and if the supply of eggs begin to fall off there is some compensation in the higher prices obtained. Milk as a rule fluctuates but little in price compared with eggs, as the latter in Winter will bring nearly twice as much as in Summer. Good quarters, cleanliness and varied food will induce the hens to lay both in Summer and Winter, and farmers will find it profitable to enlarge their flocks and bestow care upon the fowls.

Rural New-Yorker says it is becoming the custom with some farmers to raise chickens in the latter part of the Summer, or after haying. The reasons for this are somewhat as follows: One cannot get Winter laying pullets unless the chicks are very early. After the first few chicks of Spring are out, those hatched in July and August will lay about as early in the following Spring as those hatched in the forepart of the Summer. The cost of raising from August on is not so great, and much of the time, from the middle of August to the first of November, is quite favorable for the growth of chickens. Besides this, there is, on most farms, more leisure time to look to the chicks after haying is over than during the rush of Spring work. Add to this the fact that the early hatches are more uncertain than those hatched later in the season, and the case is, for many people, strongly in favor of Fall-raised chicks. It is also true that in some locations the Winter egg

does not bring the most clear money. Eggs in late Summer cost less and bring nearly as much money.

About Broilers and Roasters.

Plump Carcass and Yellow Skin is the American Idea of Poultry—No Matter if You do Think Otherwise, Cater to the Demand.

Oh, yes, I have found it pleasant
Putting the eggs to hatch
And counting the little chickens
A downy, struggling batch,
Then watching them grow and feather,
But now in the early Fall,
A nice fat fowl on the table's
The sweetest sight of all.

—*Farm Journal.*

Torn skin makes the carcass look unattractive.

The best egg producers are not always the best market fowls.

On many broiler farms the incubators are already in full blast.

Do not lose sight of the fact that quick growth is the only way to have plump and tender carcasses.

A noted Hammonton broiler raiser prefers White Leghorns to any other breed for his purpose.

While a strong young cockerel is essential to successful breeding, yet the size and bone of the chick come from the hen in a large measure, says *Commercial Poultry*.

Commercial Poultry says it takes less corn to make a pound of gain on a flock of good chickens that are not allowed to run their legs off on a large range, than it does to make a pound of pork.

Customer: "But don't you think \$2 a terrible price for a chicken?" Dealer: "Not suburban chickens, sir. Why, every one of these fowls was raised on flower seed that cost 50 cts. a package." —*Chicago News.*

One of the best grades of dressed poultry which reaches the Boston market is shipped by one of the Philadelphia dealers under the name of "Swedesboro milk-fed chickens," says the *American Agriculturist*. These are raised in Gloucester Co., N. J., where the soil is particularly adapted for raising very fine chickens, and are fed in a special manner.

The *American Stock-Keeper* says: "Birds, after they are killed, keep longer in their feathers than when they are plucked, because the feathers prevent the air or dampness from getting so readily to the bird to produce fermentation or decay." There could not be a more serious mistake. Unless the feathers are taken off when the fowl is killed, the flesh, especially about the stern, will turn green.

Poultry Herald says the market fowl must possess a quality and quantity of meat that most nearly meets the demands of the market, must possess a proper amount of flesh in proportion to its frame, must take on flesh easily

A COMMON SENSE PROPOSITION

THE MANN'S 1902 Model BONE CUTTER.

New design, open hopper, enlarged table, new device to control feed. You can set it to suit any strength. Never clogs.

Our Proposition is

to send our machine on **TEN DAYS FREE TRIAL**. No money asked for until you prove our guarantee on your own premises, that our 1902 model will cut all kinds of bone with adhering meat and gristle, easier and faster and in better shape than any other type of bone cutter. If you don't like it, send it back at our expense.

The reason bone cutting by the ordinary types of machine is such hard work, is that in them no account is taken of the varying degrees of hardness of bones, or the difference in the strength of different operators.

The positive feed machines feed hard bones as rapidly as soft bones and feed to a weak operator as rapidly as to a strong one. The hand feed machine—at best a crude and awkward arrangement—demands not only constant attention from the operator, but a strong left arm to hold the bone against the knives with sufficient pressure to make cutting possible. It is always a tiresome, temper-trying, unsatisfactory process, as everyone knows who has tried it. We have entirely overcome these difficulties in the Mann's 1902 Model. It has an adjustable automatic feed. You can set it to feed as rapidly or as slowly as you like; to run as hard or as easily as you like, to cut as fine or as coarse as you like. For this reason it is the only machine which a child or a woman can put to practical use.

But that is not all. When you strike a hard place in bone it does not stall. The governor checks the feed the very second the bones begin to cut hard and allows the knives to cut off the portions they have bitten into, without further feeding. In other words,

the machine—without any attention from the operator—feeds soft bones more rapidly than hard bones.

This feed—a very simple device in itself, free from complicated parts—is without doubt the greatest step forward ever taken in bone cutter construction. You need not take our say for this. Accept our proposition. *A step forward. Prove it on your own premises.*

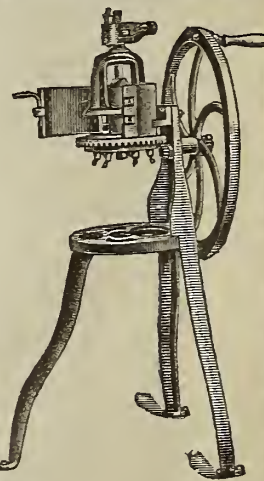
OUR NEW BOOK explains this self-governing feed in detail and shows how and why the Mann's 1902 Model cuts all bone, meat and gristle free from splinters and chunks; how it discards and wastes nothing that goes into the hopper; how its knives are easily sharpened and adjusted; how it cuts more rapidly than others; how its knives are in action all the time and not waving idly in the open air; how the hinged open cylinder gives instant access to all working parts for cleaning the machine and removing or adjusting the knives; how it is free from breakages and how you may try it before you buy it.

F. W. MANN CO., Box 67, Milford, Mass.

Bone Cutters, Clover Cutters, Corn Shellers, Granite Crystal Grit, Swinging Feed Trays, Etc.



Overcoming difficulties.



enough so as to be put in market shape in a reasonable length of time. A bird possessing these qualities will not be found very faulty as a market fowl.

The editor of the *Poultry Monthly* thinks that the chief reasons for the decline in prices of broilers are, first, the development of cold storage; and second, the great increase of poultry in the West. Large numbers of small chicks from the farms are put away in the Fall at low prices, to be brought out as broilers when needed in Winter and Spring. The *Monthly* correctly says a combination, with broilers as a side issue, seems most promising under existing conditions.

"To raise fowls for market, buying all the feed, and do it with profit, may not be actually impossible, as much depends on the character of the market and nearly as much on the character of the man who engineers the business. But, at best, the profit will be small," says *Texas Farm and Ranch*. That may hold good in sections where the market rate is low, but poultry raisers in the North, who are near the big markets like New York and Boston, find it more profitable to buy the food than to raise it.

Consul Roosevelt, of Brussels, gives this interesting account of fattening poultry in Belgium: In fattening for market, at about three months old, coops of peculiar construction accommodate twenty chickens. They are twenty-four inches high, twenty inches wide, standing on four legs three feet in height; the bottom is made of lath so that the droppings fall through, the top an adjustable board to allow free circulation of air, the front lath two to two and one-half inches apart, and the receptacle for food a triangular-shaped wooden box. The food consists of ground buckwheat mixed with milk, forming a paste not too liquid, and fed twice daily. At noon milk or milk and water is given them. If any refuse to take their food, they are not forced to eat, but are removed and killed, as they will grow thin and lose their market value. They are usually fed four or five weeks.

Most people who start out in the poultry business would like to make a profit. In order to do this it is not only necessary to manage the business so that it will yield a profit, but it is absolutely necessary to produce something that will sell at a good price in the near-by market, says *Iowa Homestead*. What is the use of growing a great number of ducks, for instance, where there is no demand for them? How is a feeder to realize on capons when ordinary poultry brings as good a price, and what is the use of wasting time on broilers when the buyers do not know what a broiler is? There is no question but that the right kind of poultry, managed in the right way, is very profitable. Other things considered, no kind of live stock will pay as well for the amount of the investment and the labor expended. From what we can glean we are of the opinion that three times as many persons who engage in the poultry business play a losing game as make it pay. There is

something wrong when this proportion fails to make money. They either do not have the right kind of knowledge of the business or they fail to do as well as they know how. In almost every business some men fail while others succeed, but the ones who fail have the wrong hold upon their business. One would understand, then, that to succeed one will have to know a great deal about his business and do as well as he knows.

The *Poultry Monthly* contains the following interview held with a large New York commission firm:

"What size broiler will be mostly in demand during September?" I asked Mr. Van Ostrand of the firm of Knapp & Van Ostrand. "About two pounds each. That is a very popular size at almost any time of year; a broiler of that size enables a restaurant to serve a half chicken, and give a good sized portion to a patron. From one and one-half to two pounds is the best all-round weight." "How about the demand for squab broilers?" "There is little demand for them now. The greatest demand is in Spring when game birds are scarce, and a small bird is in demand in restaurants. They should weigh from three-fourths to one pound. There would be no sale for them now at prices that would make it profitable to make a specialty of them, because there are so many chickens coming in from the West, and among them can be found all the small chickens required, at low prices. Many who ship squab broilers make a great mistake in sending such bony, poor ones. I have seen many of them that were but skin and bones. They must be plump, with some meat on the bones." One has only to go through the markets to have these facts about the shipment of poor stock verified. I have seen many a coop of

\$65.00 for forty thoroughbred Lt. B. hens (Felch and Boyer), and two cocks (Silbersteins). M. E. Hammond, Hackettstown, N. J.

BLACK LANGSHANS Cockerels,
BROWN LEGHORNS \$1.00 each.
Eggs \$1.00. S. W. BRACKNEY, Santa Fe, Ohio.

C. H. REEVE, 187 Washington St., New York.
Grass seed, Poultry and Pigeon supplies, Millet, Hemp, Peas, Beef Scraps, Ground Bone, Charcoal, Grit, Shells, Wheat, Barley, Round Corn, Oil meal, Buckwheat, Broken Rice, Lentils and Buckwheat Feed.

START THAT INCUBATOR. Eggs that will hatch, from heavy laying, high class Light Brahmas, \$2.50 per 50; \$5 per 100; \$9 per 200. Trap nests used for over two years.
PHILIP H. GEORGE, Braidwood, Illinois.

Choice CUT CLOVER

The best on the market, cut in one-eighth inch lengths and all long stems sifted out. The best and cheapest egg food you can buy. \$1.50 per 100 lbs.; \$7 per 500 lbs.; \$25 per ton; \$60 for three tons.

100 Red Belgian Hares, \$1 to \$2 each. 300 first-class White Wyandottes, yearlings and young stock, \$1 to \$2 each. Catalogue. Order at once.
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Owner, N. M., P. O. Box 1105, New York City.

live chickens that would not weigh more than one-half pound each, and were miserably poor and thin at that. The same is true of dressed broilers. Many people hear that some people have sold chicks weighing less than a pound each for what seems like an extra price, and immediately a lot are sent without any knowledge of the demands of the market, or the prospects of sale. The demand for anything out of the usual order is always limited, and it is usually supplied by some one who is thoroughly posted, and is situated so close that he may watch the market. However, it pays to study up these special products and demands, and then study the question as to what can be done towards supplying them. But don't go it blind.

Our Brevity Symposium.

Readers of A FEW HENS are Invited to Answer Queries that Monthly Appear in these Columns, as Well as Ask Questions to be Answered.

No. 95.

On what basis do you figure for percentage of laying; that is, when a person reports a 40 per cent egg yield for December from 25 hens, how many eggs should such person get?

If the hens are not over three years old, and have been well kept, have a moderately warm coop, I see no reason why they should not receive 60 per cent egg yield during December.—Edw. J. Schafer, Buffalo, N. Y.

Ten eggs per day, or 310 for the month.—Geo. Hall, East Islip, N. Y.



LICE KILLER
Kills all lice or mites on chickens and hogs by simply painting or sprinkling on roosts—for poultry; on bedding for hogs. Sample free. Be sure to get Lee's, in yellow cans, with trademark. Not sold in bulk.
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MINORCAS.

SINGLE COMB BLACK MINORCAS.

These birds lay the largest and whitest of eggs, and have been bred twelve years for heavy layers. Fair raised, vigorous, handsome.

Prompt replies to inquiries. Moderate prices. Catalogue free. Satisfaction guaranteed.

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TRAP NESTS.

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EVERY BOY HIS OWN TOY MAKER.

Tells how to make all kinds Toys, Steam Engines, Photo Cameras, Windmills, Microscopes, Electric Telegraphs, Telephones, Magic Lanterns, Aeolian Harps, Boats, from a rowboat to a schooner; also Kites, Balloons, Masks, Wagons, Toy Houses, Bow and Arrow, Pop Guns, Slings, Stilts, Fishing Tackle, Rabbit and Bird Traps, and many others. All is made so plain that a boy can easily make them. 200 handsome illus. This great book by mail 10c, 3 for 25c. C. E. DePuy, Pub, Syracuse, N. Y.

Forty per cent egg yield for December, in Eastern Massachusetts (average condition of weather and temperature) we should consider good. I doubt if this average could be secured, unless the flock was culled of all late molting hens. If the average were based on the laying of pullets only, I consider 40 per cent only fair. From 25 hens the party should get an average of ten eggs per day for the whole month.—William C. King, Hopkinton, Mass.

There are thirty-one days in December, and 25 hens, at one egg each a day, would make 775 eggs for the month. But as he only gets 40 per cent, or forty eggs from every possible one hundred, he would have to receive 310 eggs to make 40 per cent for December.—Matt G. Robson, Port Leylen, N. Y.

It would require 12.40 eggs per hen, or 310 eggs from 25 hens. I figure mine in this manner: In August my pen of twenty hens laid 350 eggs, an average, per hen, of 17.50.—Geo. H. Freeman, Hallowell, Me.

The way that I should figure the per cent of egg yield for a flock of hens for one month would be to divide the total number of eggs laid by the number of days in the month to get the average number per day. The average number per day divided by the number of laying hens in the flock gives the per cent of egg yield. In the example given in the question, the 25 hens should have laid 310 eggs in the month of December, or an average of ten eggs per day for the egg yield to be forty per cent.—F. O. Wellcome, Yarmouth, Maine.

Should figure 25 eggs each day for December—775 eggs for the month as one hundred per cent yield. Forty per cent of that is 310, or an average of ten eggs for each day in the month.—Harry C. Nunan, Cape Porpoise, Me.

No. 96.

What is the best food or tonic to hurry up molting, and to have it over as quickly as possible?

Feed linseed meal and animal meal, in mash; plenty of whole wheat at night. Never have used any tonics.—Geo. H. Freeman.

We feed no condiment to our fowls, but during molt we furnish them an extra supply of meat food, and add a small quantity (say one pint to 100 hens) of linseed meal to the mash.—Wm. C. King.

If molting early, as mine are doing this year, I mix a mash as follows, once a day: Bran, middlings, cornmeal, equal by bulk to 100 pounds, and add three pounds of linseed meal and one-quarter pound salt. But if molting late, and the weather is wet or cold, I keep the fowls dry and warm, and give the following: Cayenne pepper, one-quarter pound; salt, two pounds; sulphur, one pound; linseed meal, twelve pounds; ground licorice, two pounds. Put two trowels (garden) of this mixture in the food for one hundred hens. If you have green cut bone, put in two pounds, and only one trowel of the mixture.—Matt G. Robson.

An increase of animal food helps them wonderfully.—Geo. Hall.

My fowls in molt get no special feed or tonic, but with free range, good food and lots of it, came through the ordeal in fine shape and quickly. Something unusual with me. My flocks are practically through molting now (September 20) and starting to laying again.—Harry C. Nunan.

I try to have my fowls molt during August and September, and so have them laying well before the cold weather comes. The only difference I make in their feed is to add two handfuls of oil meal to a pail of mash in the morning, and to make their grain diet half cracked corn.—Edw. J. Schafer.

No. 97.

When line-breeding for egg production, how do you select your breeders in regard to their relationship?

In line-breeding for egg production, we have only mated pullets or hens back to their sire, the result being first-class layers, and the stock came nearer one type.—Harry C. Nunan.

In all matings I try to avoid getting too close to inbreeding, as the young are too apt to have some weakness. But I like to come back about the fourth cross.—Matt G. Robson.

This question brings us to a subject which too often is overlooked by the average man. We believe that great danger is encountered by the introduction of strange blood in a flock. Hence our method of minimizing this



HUMPHREY

Don't buy a bone cutter until you have seen and tried a **HUMPHREY**, the simplest in construction, the easiest in operation, the only open hopper type. Every Humphrey is sold subject to return if it does not cut more bone, and in less time and with less labor, cost less for repairs and produce better food, than any other type of bone cutter.

Send for free catalogue and egg-record book.

Humphrey & Sons, Box 23 Joliet, Ill.

SALES AGENTS.
Joseph Breck & Sons, Boston, Mass.
Johnson & Stokes, Philadelphia.
Griffith & Turner Co., Baltimore.
Sure Hatch Incub. Co., Clay Center, Neb.
E. J. Bowen, Portland, Oregon;
Seattle, Wash.
and San Francisco.

BRICAULT'S BRED-TO-LAY WHITE WYANDOTTES

Are bred systematically for layers by the individual record method. **C. BRICAULT, M. D. V.,** (Formerly Lawrence, Mass.) Andover, Mass.

danger and at the same time fortifying against inbreeding. By judicious personal selection, we purchase two or three yearling hens. These we mate with a choice cockerel from (say) Pen A of heavy laying, brown-egg strain. Their get in cockerels we market, but the pullets are in turn mated to a fine cockerel from Pen B. The heavy layers of this flock are our breeders to produce cockerels only for maintaining strength and vigor. Thus:

New Hens } Cockerels sold.
Pen A. Ckl. }

Pullets } Cockerels for use.
Pen B. Ckl. }

This system takes time and patience, but we find it insures the best returns. Every second year we introduce the new blood.—Wm. C. King.

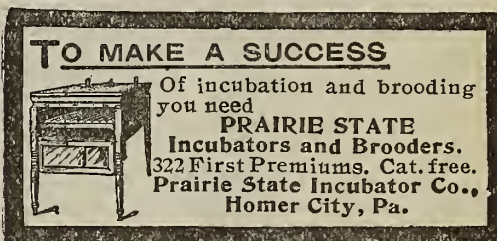
Have never practiced any line-breeding.—Geo. H. Freeman.

No. 98.

What qualities in a cockerel do you consider most essential if you intend to mate him with yearling hens with the intention of producing heavy laying pullets?

First, that he shall come from heavy laying stock. Second, that he shall be strong and vigorous.—Geo. H. Freeman.

[Continued on page 45.]



TO MAKE A SUCCESS

Of incubation and brooding you need **PRAIRIE STATE Incubators and Brooders.** 322 First Premiums, Cat. free. **Prairie State Incubator Co.,** Homer City, Pa.

BUFF Leghorns and R. C. R. I. Reds. Standard bred. Heavy layers. Eggs. E. T. PERKINS, Saco, Maine.

My BROWN LEGHORNS

are great layers. Cockerels and pullets for sale after September 15. Also two cocks. All pure bred. Write, **LEE SHORTT**, Lower Cabot, Vermont.

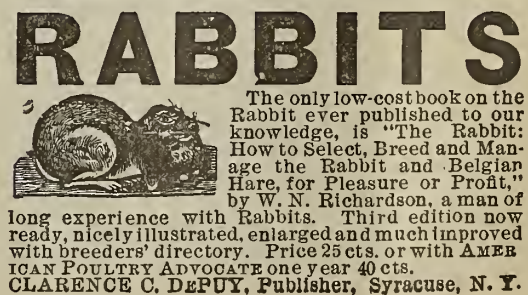
WHITE WYANDOTTE AND BARRED PLYM. ROCK COCKERELS.

Brown egg strain. From heavy laying stock. \$2 each if ordered before Sept. 15th—after that \$3 each. **MICHAEL K. BOYER**, Hammonton, N. J.

"Best Liver Pill Made."

Parsons' Pills

Positively cure biliousness and sick headache, liver and bowel complaints. They expel all impurities from the blood. Delicate women find relief from using them. Price 25 cts.; five \$1.00. Pamphlet free. **I. S. JOHNSON & CO.,** 22 Custom House St., Boston.



RABBITS

The only low-cost book on the Rabbit ever published to our knowledge, is "The Rabbit: How to Select, Breed and Manage the Rabbit and Belgian Hare, for Pleasure or Profit," by W. N. Richardson, a man of long experience with Rabbits. Third edition now ready, nicely illustrated, enlarged and much improved with breeders' directory. Price 25 cts. or with **AMERICAN POULTRY ADVOCATE** one year 40 cts. **CLARENCE C. DePUY**, Publisher, Syracuse, N. Y.

A FEW HENS.

EDITED BY

MICHAEL K. BOYER,

Hammonton, N. J.

Published Once a Month.

Sample Copy Free.

Price, Monthly, Three Cents.

By the Year, Twenty-Five Cents.

Send all orders to

I. S. JOHNSON & CO., Boston, Mass.,

PUBLISHERS.

ADVERTISING RATE:

The rate per agate line is 15 cents each insertion; or 10 cents per line if order is for six months or more. About seven ordinary words make one line. There are fourteen lines in each inch space, single column.

Entered at the Post-Office at Boston, Mass., as second-class matter, by I. S. Johnson & Co., Publishers, 22 Custom House St., Boston, Mass.

EDITORIAL.

Fall Trade. The Fall trade, while not so extensive as the egg season, is generally a very interesting event in the poultry business. It is interesting to the breeder, as it is one of his harvest seasons, and it is interesting to the buyer from the fact that it gives him a chance to secure stock in its prime state.

How encouraging, at this time of the year, does a flock of pullets, or a family of hens just through their molt, look. Their very appearance puts new life in the enterprise. No wonder so many count their poultry years from November to November.

So this being the accepted time, it is time that our readers carefully look up the different advertisements that are inserted in our columns, and place their contracts while the cream of stock still remains in the market. To delay in this matter will mean more cost, and not unlikely stock not so good.

If this should meet the eye of the breeder who has not as yet tried our advertising columns, we ask that a trial be given. A FEW HENS stands alone in its field. It is the paper for beginners. It goes to the homes of buyers. Its readers are not fanciers, but plain, honest poultrymen. They want good goods, but are not after the fancy kind. They love the beautiful, but their theory of beauty is that "handsome is as handsome does." To them a well-filled egg basket is by far more pretty than a bunch of ornamental feathers. Just as the plain, honest man is a more pleasing sight to them than the fop, the dandy or dude, so their ideas run of the poultry tribe. They want production and not ornamentation.

Have you goods that will fit such people? If so, then A FEW HENS is the paper, and, like Brother Purvis, we can cry "*THIS* is the paper that is different."

We Mourn. Since the copy for the September issue went to press, our beloved country has been sorely tried by the assassination of our faithful President—William McKinley. The blow was a terrible one, inasmuch as it not only ended the existence of a model man and official, but it aimed at

our free and elective government, the very kind of government that should please all ideas and faiths. In common with all good citizenship, A FEW HENS mourns. No better tribute has been paid our dead President than these beautiful lines delivered by Ex-President Grover Cleveland:

"The man who is universally mourned today acquired the highest distinction which this great country can confer on any man, and he lived a useful life. He was not deficient in education, but with all you will hear of his great career and his services to his country and fellow-citizens, you will never hear that either the high place he reached or what he accomplished was due entirely to his education.

"But you will instead constantly hear as accounting for his great success, that he was obedient and affectionate as a son, patient and faithful as a soldier, honest and upright as a citizen, tender and devoted as a husband, and truthful, generous, unselfish, moral and clean in every relation of life.

"He never thought any of these things too weak for manliness."

Poultry in Cuba. E. M. Moller, Columbia, Cuba, submits the following letter to us:

"I will beg my correspondents to pardon me if I delay answering the balance of the questions asked me concerning the American colonies until the next (November) issue of A FEW HENS. Many people are coming here on every steamer to settle in their new homes, and we expect to be kept busy showing newcomers about the whole Winter season.

"Late arrivals inform us that but a small fraction of land remains to be disposed of of the 'Rincón Grande' tract, the portion of the colonies in which Columbia is located. But rumor also has it that the company from which we got our lots and lands, are taking steps to secure another tract of land, and that they are pushing the matter hard in the States of Illinois and Ohio, where they have their officers. Since lately a new eldorado is looming up in our vicinity. A few miles from here in our very province, gold has been discovered. How rich the yield is as yet is not generally known. It is not exactly a surprise. We have known as long as we have been here, that the Island of Cuba is rich in various metals, among which is gold, but the locations of the gold fields has not been known by the general public.

"Now, however, several of the boys have gone pick and shovel, and the rest of us will be likely to leave wife and children in the protecting care of the colonies.

"If the fields should prove rich, the country will soon be flooded with people, and we, in the colonies, will grow, and the value of our lands and lots will grow quicker than would be possible without the two additional resources of revenue: First, the gold fields, and second, the Van Horn railroad, which will extend from one end of the Island to the other, running East and West, with branches out into these localities where industrious enterprises are located, which of course, must mean our American settle-

ments, because the dear Cubans could not get up such a settlement in a century as we Northerners can in one single year. The Van Horn road is already under construction. Some of the boys have gone to put their shoulder to the wheel there.

"Well, these scraps of information will hardly be considered suitable literature for the poultry press, and the editor will doubtless boil down the matter to suit himself, and consign the balance to the waste basket.

"Next month I may be able to withdraw my mind from the gold fields and the shipping facilities, and make it revolve on oranges and hens."

Rhode Island Reds. Our remarks in the September A FEW

HENS, regarding Rhode Island Reds, has called forth two well-written defences, which we give as follows:

"While agreeing with you, Mr. Editor, when you say in Experimental Farm Notes, September 15th, that R. I. Reds are early and steady layers, and are first-class table fowls, I cannot do so when you further say, 'The objection to them, to the general public, is that they have such a mongrel look' and that 'the females are all shades.' How many times have I read in 'our' little paper, 'breed from the best.' We, as breeders of R. I. Reds, have a standard to breed to, and I believe the careful breeders of Reds, and there are many such, are giving as thoughtful study and as much work to perfecting them, as have ever been given to any class of thoroughbreds. While the breed is still in its infancy, and there are many ideas of what the R. I. Reds should be in color, the breeders of this variety, throughout the land, are enough in harmony to be able to show stock, and plenty of it, that will conform to the R. I. Red Club Standard, and will compare favorably with any flock of Standard bred fowl in existence. It was my pleasure to attend the Boston Show in 1900, and a display coop of R. I. Reds, exhibited by Mr. Samuel Cushman, was particularly attractive to me, the females being very much alike in color and general characteristics. By carefully selecting my own breeding birds for a number of years to conform to my interpretation of the 'Standard,' I have been able to greatly reduce the culls thrown, such as those, Mr. Editor, with pencilled backs, feathered legs, etc., if I read the Standard right. I could show you, were you here, a good sized flock of S. C. R. I. Red pullets very evenly matched for color and of one type, the result of breeding from the best, the teachings of A FEW HENS. The time is not ripe as yet, but I hope that in the near future the Red breeders through the Club, will apply to the American Poultry Association for recognition, after settling on a more definite and fixed standard, and if recognized as a standard breed, as no doubt they would be, it would do much to make the breed still more a success."—Harry C. Nunan, Cape Porpoise, Me-

"A FEW HENS, September 15th issue, to hand. Your remarks *re* Rhode Island Reds noted. In fairness to the breed, I

think you might state that the original stock of yours was not even enough, and certainly too much on the buff order. I have had as good shaped birds as you originally sent me, but with much better color. Mind, Mr. Boyer, I am not kicking about the purchase from you. I got *good value*—strong, healthy stock, and good layers. The Rhode Island Reds certainly do not run even enough as a general rule, but the breed is new. I have under consideration mating one pen of even-colored birds, including and, if possible, equal to my pullet that won second at the Madison Square Show.

"If we can get the fancy points on this breed, you other breeders will have to look to your laurels. As a utility breed, in my judgment, they cannot be beaten, and as it is, are making good headway.

"My birds are all free from feathered legs, have not had any since I commenced with them; are strong and active, and lay both in Summer and Winter."

Big Eggs. A correspondent, William Loyd, who does not wish his address given, as he has nothing to sell, writes A FEW HENS as follows:

"I have just finished reading the September A FEW HENS, and—please do not get a swelled head—I like it better than ever, and I think it in some respects the best of all poultry papers. I am not going to tell any one how to feed, hatch, raise, or keep poultry, but just give a little experience.

"My hobby is eggs—big eggs—not eight pound hens laying one and one-half ounce eggs, but four, four and one-half and five pound hens laying three ounce eggs. The cry is: 'Sell your hens when yearlings,' but my profit is in my hens, and not my pullets. The large eggs are laid by my old birds, and nearly all the yearlings are ahead of their pullet record in number, and pounds ahead in weight.

"I am selling all eggs seven to the pound, at 15 cts.; and six to the pound, at 16 cts. the year round, and cannot get enough for the demand. A penny is not enough to brag about, but 579 pounds feeds eight of the birds that laid them.

"Get on to your trap nests and find out where you are at. Get your layers of large eggs, and the greatest number, and don't make potpies of the best laying hens in your flocks because they are not as handsome as the poorest layers.

"Nine years ago I sold a man a hen, yearling, for 50 cts. It was what fanciers would call a disqualified hen, but she laid 161 eggs for the fellow that bought her, and he raised twenty-two as fine birds from her eggs as I ever saw.

"Then I began on the trap nests, and of all the things they revealed to me, the greatest was that I could have birds to lay 200 eggs a year, and some none at all.

"My neighbor, a farmer, says 'eggs are eggs, so much a dozen.' He had 141 birds, and said: 'I think I can do as well as you, and not half the trouble.' So he had corn laying all around all the time. I told him to keep a record of eggs laid, and he did. The result was,

TO make cows pay, use Sharples Cream Separators. Book 'Business Dairying' & Cat. 247 free. W. Chester, Pa.

811 dozen, \$212. I had thirty-two hens which laid 671 pounds of eggs, at 15 cts., equalling \$100.65. Twenty-three hens laid 579 pounds, which at 16 cts. a pound, equalled \$92.64. Total, fifty-five hens, \$193.29. He has not said 'eggs are eggs' since, but it took me nine years to get where I am."


Editorial In New York City they Chit-Chat. say, "If you see it in the *Sun* it must be so." Accepting that endorsement of the great Metropolitan newspaper, it is doubly gratifying to have that publication say, after reviewing all the leading publications in the country: "A FEW HENS is the brightest jewel of all."

Buby Bronxs, the genial superintendent of the Excelsior Wire and Poultry Supply Co., 28 Vesey Street, New York City, writes A FEW HENS as follows: "A customer of ours was feeding his hens bran. Our superintendent thought, by adding half sawdust, the production would be greater. It was tried with fair results. He then placed a full setting of the eggs under a hen, and hatched eleven chickens with wooden legs, and two woodpeckers."

But this is not the first time this experiment has been tried. However, as Mr. Russ *vouches* for the story, inquiries must be addressed to him.

With the September 16th issue, the *Practical Poultryman*, of Whitney's Point, N. Y., and the *Poultry Star*, of this State, have consolidated, and will in the future be issued from Whitney's Point. The new firm will consist of F. C. Branday and F. E. Davenport, with M. Davenport in editorial control. The paper starts out in fine shape, and we wish it unbounded success.

FRESH EGGS WANTED



The American people want fresh eggs the year round and are willing to pay you handsomely for them. Your hens will help supply the demand (at a good, round profit,) if you help them with a

Stearns Bone Cutter.

It will double your egg yield, insure fertile eggs for hatching, makes chicks and broilers grow. It reduces bone to a granular meal, free from splinters and chunks. Our "How To Make Poultry Pay" is the title of a book which tells the whole story. Let us send you a free copy.

The New Model Number Seven is a ball-bearing, easy-running, rapid-cutting machine, cutting all meat and gristle, as well as dry or green bone. Ball-bearing makes it easy; the gear makes it powerful. Entirely automatic and self-regulating. Eight other sizes for hand or power.

E. C. Stearns & Co., Box 5 Syracuse, N. Y.

Utility White Wyandottes

CHOICE COCKERELS FOR SALE.

ROBERT ATKINS,


No. 11 West 22nd Street, New York City.
Plant—Esopus-on-Hudson.

E. R. Reid, of Englewood, N. J., sends A FEW HENS an illustrated page of a recent issue of the New York *Herald*, showing the different departments of the farm of the late President McKinley. Mr. McKinley kept ten fine horses, 28 head of noted cattle, 115 head of sheep, and 53 head of swine, with a liberal lot of White turkeys and other poultry.

The season is at hand when green cut bone must figure in the bill of fare, if satisfactory results in egg production and fertility are to be guaranteed. For a number of years the editor has experimented in the feeding of green bone, and in each trial the results have been satisfactory.

There are a number of very good bone cutters on the market, and each year seems to note improvements in that line. The most recent patent is upon the Mann Cutter, which is embodied in their 1902 model. This will cut all kinds of bone with adhering meat and gristle. The new machine is a new design, open hopper, enlarged table, new device to control feed. You can set it to suit any strength. Never clogs. It embraces all the best features of the old reliable Mann's, and a dozen radical improvements which have increased its efficiency fully one hundred per cent.

On A FEW HENS Experimental Farm, the Mann Bone Cutter has been used for years, and the editor can speak favorably of the ease of operation, and relia-



THERE IS NO INCUBATOR

which has been more successful than the **SUCCESSFUL**. You hear about them everywhere. The reason is that they do their work so well. Send 6c in stamps for new 154p. book, printed in 5 languages, describing our Successful Incubators and Brooders. They deserve their name.

Des Moines Incubator Co., Box 423, Des Moines, Iowa.

\$1.00 UTILITY \$1.00

White Wyandotte Cockerels. May 14th hatch. 191 egg strain. These will make fine early spring breeders. Edw. Lewis, Magnolia, Camden Co., N. J.

THIRTY DAYS SALE

of B. P. Rocks, yearlings and pullets, R. I. Red and White Wyandotte cockerels, R. C. White Leghorn cockerels and pullets. Also lot of grade pullets; got to go. Come early and get first choice.

A. H. GERMOND, Stanfordville, N. Y.

SLAVING IN THE CITY, EH!

That's foolish, when we can sell you ten acres of the finest poultry, truck and fruit land in the coniferous zone of New Jersey for \$150, payable \$1.50 weekly. Send for booklet. GILBERT & O'CALLAGHAN, No. 609 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

Chick Manna

makes a certainty of raising chicks after hatching them. Try a little and we will sell you more. 1 lb. by mail, 25c; 5 lbs. by express, 40c; 60 lb. case by freight or express, \$4.20.

Gape Worm { Metz, 25c } They
Extractors, { Eureka, 10c } Get
 { Silver, 10c } There

POULTRY SUPPLIES of every kind, all described in our illustrated catalogue sent free on request. Write for it to-day.

217-219
Johnson & Stokes, Market St., Philadelphia.

bility of both the machine and the manufacturers. See their large advertisement in this issue.

Mrs. M. B. Smith, North Stoughton, Mass., writes: "In an article by Nelson R. Wood, in the July 15th issue of your paper, I find this statement: 'There is no mixing the babies in the chicken world. Every little chick knows its protector's call, and the mother hen knows the individual progeny for which she holds herself responsible.'"

"Now I would like to say that the statement does not always hold good, as I have found from my experience this year. I had three Buff Wyandottes and two Rhode Island Red hens with flocks of chicks, all hatched within ten days of each other, and placed them in small coops in a large orchard.

"For a week I kept the hens confined in the coops, then let them all run loose. In a short time any or all the chicks would run at the call of any one of the hens. Two of the hens did co-operative housekeeping, going into the same coop at night with any of the chicks that might choose to come with them. Not only that, but some brooder chicks, fully a week older than any of the hens' chicks, concluded that they would like a mother, and were adopted by the hens. Larger chicks that were all feathered out, were kept at a distance, but all the small chicks run with the five hens, and sometimes I would see as many as twenty-five or thirty chicks with one hen, while another hen had only two or three."

Commercial Poultry says: "A FEW HENS says we are in a fight with *Farm-Poultry* about the Van Dresser poultry farm. 'Uncle Mike' is in error. *Farm-Poultry* is doing the fighting. We are telling the facts." The other fellow is also claiming he is telling the truth.

The Women's Special edition of *Poultry Monthly*, (Albany, N. Y.) is a good one. The prime mover of this issue is Myra V. Norys, who is, without a doubt, the best woman poultry writer in the country. Among the bright writers the *Monthly* brings to the surface is Miss Frances Ellen Wheeler, of Chazy, N. Y. Miss Wheeler has an entertaining way of writing. The article "Bein' Diffrent," by Lina Curtis Hadley, hits us poultry editors rather hard, but it is good, nevertheless.

C. A. Edgerton, Fiskdale, Mass., a beginner, gives some very interesting experiments, especially with trap nests, in the following extract from his letter to us:

"Nothing in the papers the poor hatches this season, I thought perhaps my experience might be of some interest. I have only Buff Wyandottes, and am operating on a small scale.

"I used trap nests, and tested all but 26 eggs. From a total of 125 eggs set, ninety chicks were hatched. I sold a dozen at two days of age, and of the 78 I lost seven chicks, all but two being killed by the hen in the nest, or when a day or two old. Of the other two, one drooped and died at three weeks of age;

the other one I found dead when quarter grown. One cockerel dressed three pounds at three months and twelve days old; others are dressing 5 to 5 1-2 pounds to the pair. Doubtless many will think these weights small. I am young at the business, but think I can improve. My breeders were mostly yearlings.

"Trap nests were very instructive. Hens whose fertility ran low early in the season, were much improved later on, which showed there was not much partiality. These hens had been lazy for some time. One laid 25 eggs in March, and 10 eggs in April, before getting broody. Twenty-two of these eggs were set, all of which proved fertile, 21 hatching. Another laid 25 eggs in March, but the fertility was low. This hen had been laying since November, going broody once in December. Four hens laid 20 eggs each in March. Three other hens 16, 15 and 12 eggs, respectively. I used the trap nests only in March and April, but these hens had laid through the Winter. Fifteen of them, in December, laid 256 eggs; January, 192; February, 207."

In these days of numerous lice and vermin killers, one would hardly believe there was "room for one more," but the Excelsior Wire and Poultry Supply Co., 26-28 Vesey St., New York City, believed there was "room on top." So when the Banner Lice and Vermin Killer was offered to the public, the proprietor, Wm. V. Russ, did not lose time in demonstrating that the Banner article had no superiors and very few equals. We are making tests with this article, and to date have found it better than

any other that we have ever tried. For fleas on dogs it does quick work.

The Midland Poultry Food Co., Kansas, City, Mo., are advertising ten varieties of ready-mixed foods for chickens, ducks and geese, in A FEW HENS. We tried their egg and feather-producing food, and find it excellent—in fact, all they claim for it. At present we are testing the fattening food, and so far are very well pleased with results. This firm is reliable—at least as far as our experience goes—and their agencies are conveniently located in all parts of the country.

H. E. Moss, Kansas City, Mo., in writing about the Midland Poultry Food Company's products, says:

"While our product must necessarily be more expensive to the customer than the ordinary feeding of grain, we argue and insist that if it costs a dollar a year, ordinarily, to feed a hen, and she returns us the dollar in product at the end of the year, we have not only made no profit, but our labor has been lost. Whereas, a dollar and a half expended in feed, enabling her to return three dollars at the end of the year, becomes decidedly profitable. And she is earning what they call back in Lehigh County, Pa., 'the Dutchman's one per cent.'"

FOR SALE. Small farm, good 7-room house, barn and poultry houses. Near depot. Fifty-five miles from New York. Terms reasonable. Address, A. W. BREWSTER, Hammonton, N. J.

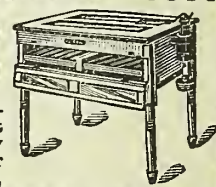
YOU'LL BE IN IT.

If you want White Wyandotte cockerels, from brown-egg strain, send to **FRANK L. DAY**, No. 60 Warren Street, West Medford, Mass.

200-Egg Incubator for \$12

The wonderful simplicity of the **Wooden Hen** and the greatly increased production forced by its immense sales, makes it possible to offer this perfect hatcher for \$12. Guaranteed to hatch as large a percentage of eggs as any other hatcher at any price. Self-regulating and fully guaranteed. Send for the free illustrated catalogue.

GEO. H. STAHL, Quincy, Ill.



**The Feed . . .
not the Breed**

is responsible for results.

The Balanced Ration

for poultry is here at last.

The 200-Egg Hen

is now a possibility.

MIDLAND FORMULAS.

Ready Mixed.

- 1 Nursery Chick Food.
- 2 Growing Chick Food.
- 3 Fattening Chick Food.
- 4 Egg and Feather Producing Food.
- 5 Nursery Duckling Food.
- 6 Growing Duckling Food.
- 7 Fattening Duckling and Gosling Food.
- 8 Laying Duck Food.
- 9 Stock Ducks' Summer Food.
- 10 Growing Gosling Food.

OUR COMPLETE FEED MEAL IS A COMBINATION OF GRAINS AND BRAINS.

We furnish the Balanced Ration—your hens will do the rest. Give them a chance. In every bag you buy you are getting the results of many years of scientific and practical study and labor, without charge. You can't afford to be without it. Try it and prove its merits. It will shorten the molt nearly one half, and will put your birds in elegant show condition. It is not a stimulant or condiment, but a complete food. Our price is \$1.40 per two bushel bag at factory. Write your nearest agent for prices and save freight charges. It is the most economical food you can use. It requires no accessories as green bone, etc., and will produce results you cannot otherwise attain. Write for our booklet *The Science of Poultry Feeding*, to any of the following agents:

Boston, Mass., Jos. Breck & Sons, 51 North Market St. New York City, Excelsior Wire and Poultry Supply Co., 28 Vesey St. Philadelphia, Pa., Johnson & Stokes, 217 Market St. Indianapolis, Ind., Vail Seed Co. Jacksonville, Fla., W. A. Bours & Company. Rochester, N. Y., Rochester Poultry Supply and Seed Co. Atlanta, Ga., A. C. Woolley & Co. Or **MIDLAND POULTRY FOOD CO.**, N. E. Corner Second and Main Streets, Kansas City, Mo.

[BREVITY SYMPOSIUM—Continued.]

Strength, vigor and heavy laying ancestry.—Wm. C. King.

Blood, quality, sprightliness. Both sexes should be energetic for laying.—Matt G. Robson.

Mate vigorous females to rugged males, both from good laying stock, ignoring to a certain extent relationship. Have bred sire to daughters with best results.—Harry C. Numan.

I keep S. C. White Leghorns, which are naturally very vigorous. In selecting them for breeding purposes I select those that grew steadily into large, well-shaped, vigorous cockerels.—Edw. J. Schafer.

We select the cockerel possessing the following qualities: Size, shape, strength and vigor, and breed from a prolific laying strain.—Geo. Hall.

No. 99.

What is your system of breeding when a large egg production is your aim?

I aim to breed from females that are of the prolific type, i. e., those that show a regular and persistent laying habit, not exclusively given to broodiness or the mal assimilation of food elements that produces interual fat instead of eggs. I believe that this type of hen can be found in any breed, and that by persistently breeding from it strains will be produced in which the type will predominate. The total number of eggs laid in one year is not the sole criterion by which the prolific type is to be judged. We may find it in the birds that produce only 150 eggs in a year or even less. Sons of such hens are the logical sires for our future layers, but just how those traits that in the female are shown in the nest are revealed in the male I cannot say.—F. O. Wellcome.

Breed only from the most prolific layers. In this way we have built up what we think is one of the best laying strains of White Wyandottes in the country.—Geo. Hall.

I use cockerel to second year's hens. Don't keep over two-year old males.—Matt G. Robson.

I think this is incorporated in No. 97.—Wm. C. King.

I use eggs for hatching from my best layers. These hens are unrelated male birds from a heavy laying strain.—Geo. H. Freeman.

Belated Replies.

We have concluded that nest eggs are of little value, even for pullets.

During molting season we believe in good protection from heat or cold, good feed and considerable meat.

We sell most of our eggs to the grocer, who comes to the door for them. The average yearly price is about 24 cents. In our market, chickens from five lbs. per pair, up, bring 25 and 30 cents per pound.—C. A. Edgerton, Fiskdale, Mass.

New Questions.

100. Give daily bill of fare for 25 Barred Plymouth Rocks, fed for eggs. Give quantity in pounds and ounces.

101. What is the best food ration for broiler chicks? Give quantity fed in pounds and ounces for say 25 chickens at one week, two weeks, one month, and two months.

102. To make the most profit out of market poultry, how many varieties would you keep? What would they be?

103. What do you use for scratching litter?

104. How do you account for the brassy tinge so common in white fowls, and have you noticed that such fowls are usually more hardy than the "stay-white" strains?

The Western Poultry Crop.

Facts taken from the Fifth Annual Report of the Poultry Crop in the West, by the Sprague Commission Co., 218 So. Water St., Chicago, Ills.—Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Wisconsin, Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota and the Dakotas.

The reports received this year from numerous correspondents indicate a material decrease in the supply of ducks and geese, a rather liberal supply of chickens, but no larger than last year, and a smaller crop of turkeys.

Weather conditions have been of such a variable and unseasonable character as to have had a very important effect on the production of poultry in its various stages of growth.

The cold and unusually late and wet Spring worked very unfavorably against the early hatches. This was particularly the case with turkeys, many of the young birds dying from cold and wet, and their growth was greatly retarded from the same causes. The excessively hot weather during July, the hottest experienced for years, with the thermometer ranging con-

tinuously for weeks from 100 to 110° at different points, and pretty much all over the country, also crippled the crops.

The fertility of the eggs was effected, and many hatches did not bring out half a brood during this period, but the later hatches met with better success, and the early failures induced farmers to put out a larger quantity and thus in cases of chickens particularly, the early losses were made up. But the very hot weather and the absence of rain, especially in the West and Southwest, had a decided effect on the crops of ducks and geese.

Water is an important factor in the raising of the web-footed fowls, and ducks and geese suffered seriously. The creeks and ponds dried up, and in many places there was no water to be had, and besides the losses in dead stock, a great deal of stock was shipped to market during the Summer and much earlier than usual, these facts creating the belief that the coming supply for Winter will be smaller than for several years.

As a result of the drouth, the corn crop is not much over half of that of last year's, and this induced farmers to sell off a considerable portion of their stock earlier than usual.

TURKEYS.

The crop of turkeys, it is estimated, will be fully 12 per cent short of last year, or about 85 per cent of a full crop. Last year was considered about a full crop.

WYCHILD'S WYANDOTTES WHITES AND SILVERS.

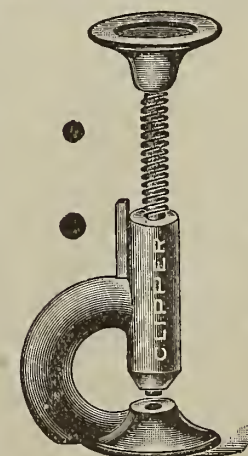
YOUNG STOCK NOW READY.

WM. H. CHILD, Box 109, Hatboro, Pa.

LILAC LODGE POULTRY PLANT and BELGIAN WARREN. Pea Comb White Rocks and Light Brahmas. Eggs half-price June 1st. Two Barred Rock Cockerels (Essex strain) cheap. Extra Belgian Bucks (Lord Channelsford) cheap. P. O. Box 453, Manitowoc, Wis.

POULTRY PAPER, illust'd, 20 pages, 25 cents per year. 4 months' trial 10 cents. Sample Free. 64-page practical poultry book free to yearly subscribers. Book alone 10 cents. Catalogue of poultry books free. Poultry Advocate, Syracuse, N.Y.

Poultry Marker.



With the Marker here illustrated, any form of mark may be adopted by punching the web between the toes. A complete record of chicks from different parties and strains can thus be kept, as well as to know your birds wherever they may be. It may save you money and a valuable bird. It costs, postpaid,

25 cts.

Send all orders to us.

FIVE MARKERS

SENT FOR \$1.00.

I. S. Johnson & Co., Boston, Mass.

TO LAST TEN YEARS

without repairs. We warrant our Cyphers Incubators to do that and guarantee them as follows—to require no supplied moisture; to be self-ventilating and regulating; to operate with less oil and expense; to be fire proof; easiest to operate; to produce stronger chicks; to out-hatch any other machines or money refunded. Circulars and prices free. 192 page book, "Profitable Poultry Keeping," 200 new illustrations for 10c stamps. Ask for book 29. Address nearest office. Cyphers Incb. Co., Boston, Mass., Wayland, N. Y., Chicago, Ills.

S. C. BROWN LEGHORNS, bred for size and heavy laying. Cockerels after Oct. 1, \$1 and \$1.50. Orders booked now. B. A. Pitman, Appleton, Me.

W. J. CHENEY, Cuba, Mo., breeder of Thoroughbred Poultry. 500 young birds \$1 each. 100 hens \$1 each. Write for price list.

ADVANCE TRAP NEST

Patented. Is guaranteed to work longer in a pen, where there is litter, than any other without cleaning Circular. W. DARLING, South Setauket, L. I., N. Y.

White Wyandottes

Improve your flock with one of my farm raised, bred for business cockerels. Birds ready October 1st. NATHAN WEST, Cobalt, Conn.

LOOK HERE! Young stock. Best strains Buff Wyandottes, Rose Comb Buff Leghorns, \$1.00 up. Write wants. Can please you. Leonard A. Waltman, Laddsbury, Bradford Co., Pa.

S. C. White Leghorns,

Bred for eggs. Eggs and stock for sale. Large, vigorous, farm raised cockerels a specialty. W. M. VREELAND, Rocky Hill, N. J.

The crop is about the same as in the year 1899, possibly a little larger. Reports in nearly all instances claim the turkeys are much poorer than usual this year, and the scarcity of feed, it is argued, will bring in a large quantity of turkeys around Thanksgiving of a poorer quality than last year. Christmas turkeys are likely to bring good prices.

CHICKENS.

The majority of reports indicate an increased crop, some of the correspondents in their sections giving as much as 25 per cent increase, while a fair proportion gives less than last year.

It probably would be fair to place the crop this year at about 95 as compared with last year.

The early hatchlings were small as compared with former years, but the later settings made up for a good share of the shortage, and while it is estimated that the crop is a little shorter than last year, it might develop that the crop may by late hatches be larger than last year.

Old chickens have been marketed rather freely, and may have sold off more closely than in former years on account of the drouth scare.

DUCKS.

Everything points to a smaller crop of ducks.

From the estimates given it would be fair to place the crop fully 10 per cent short of last year.

Last year the crop was fully 20 per cent less than the year 1898, but as the crop of that year was way above an average crop, the production this year will not be much below an average crop.

Prices realized have not been giving much encouragement to farmers to raise ducks. They seem to have been marketed freely on account of the anticipated scarcity of feed and the short water supply.

GEESE.

Another shrinkage in the crop is indicated by this year's report of about 10 each 15 per cent as compared with last year, making a showing of about 70, against last year, or some 30 per cent less than the crop of 1898, which was considered a full crop.

Pointers on Food and Feeding.

High Prices for Feed Stuff Continues—The First Study for the Beginner Should be "Food, and How to Give it."

Scratch!

Use judgment.

Regular hours.

Avoid new grain.

The best is the cheapest.

Corn is higher than wheat.

Pets are generally over-fed.

Combine cleanliness and purity.

Give a variety, but use one system.

Get your green bone cutter in action.

Don't let the mixing trough get musty. Again—get in your Winter supply of food.

Do you own a vegetable cutter? If not, get one.

Dry bone has gone out of the modern bill of fare.

It will soon be time to scald that mash with hot water.

To do the most good, the mash must be fed in the morning.

Hens eat up the waste on the farm and convert it into eggs.

Fowls are ravenously fond of purslane when denied free range.

Fowls do better on raw vegetables, cut up fine, than they do when cooked.

Generally, what fowls are fond of is good for them, if it be sound in condition.

Linseed meal is invaluable in the poultry mash, especially for molting fowls.

A cooker is a valuable article on a poultry farm. Cooked food is relished in Winter.

Turn over the feed troughs at night, so they will be clean the next morning when wanted.

Give only sufficient mash in the morning to "break the fast." Remember the meal is breakfast.

After repeated experiments, we find that it costs, on an average, 10 cts. a month to properly feed a fowl.

It will require an average of one pound of grain per week for ten weeks to feed a chick; says an exchange.

Dr. Woods, a recognized authority on poultry foods, grades the many grains as follows: Wheat, oats, barley, corn, buckwheat and rye.

Michigan Poultry Breeder says it will require seven pounds of skimmed milk to equal one pound of lean beef for flesh-forming qualities.

The man who feeds mash in the evening during cold weather, gives food in a condition that will be digested before the coldest hours of the night are reached. Is such a man giving his fowls comfort?

W. Theo. Wittman says there is no use in trying to fatten any poultry that is not in prime health and a vigorous appetite. Confinement and heavy feeding will only aggravate the symptoms of a bird already in poor health.

James Rankin says that pullets properly cared for and fed on well-balanced rations, would usually commence laying before getting too fat. Yearling hens, especially Asiatics, have a tendency to take on fat, but that can be easily controlled by feeding less hearty food.

Gluten meal and gluten feed are often confounded by farmers, says *American Agriculturist*. Unscrupulous dealers sometimes substitute the gluten feed for the gluten meal. The meal contains much more protein and more fat than the feed, and consequently is more valuable.

Texas Farm and Ranch says: "Many writers recommend oyster shell as grit

ARE YOUR FOWLS MOLTING?

IF THEY ARE, GIVE THEM A LITTLE OF OUR

BANNER MOULTING POWDER

to help them through. It aids them shed their old feathers, and will bring in their place the best coat of feathers they ever had. It protects them from getting cold or roup, and is the best article ever used for this purpose. Try a can of it on some of your fowls and note the wonderful results.

Prices. 1 lb. can, 25c., by mail, 40c. Five cans, \$1, on board of express in New York.

We sell POULTRY SUPPLIES of every description.

Sole New York and Export Agents for Prairie State Incubators and Brooders.

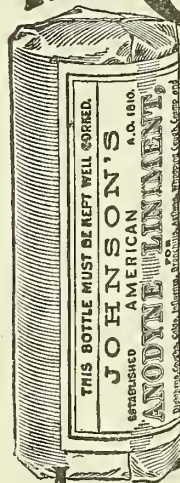
Our large Illustrated Catalogue Free. Send for one.

EXCELSIOR WIRE AND POULTRY SUPPLY CO.,

Dept. H. 26 and 28 Vesey St., between Broadway and Church St.,
W. V. RUSS, Proprietor. New York City.

THE COMBINATION THAT CURES

EVERY MOTHER
SHOULD
Have it in the House



Colds
Croup
Coughs
Cramps
Cholera
Chills
Colic.

Johnson's Anodyne Liniment

Dropped on sugar it is pleasant to take to cure many common ills, Internal and External. Price 25 and 50c. Book Treatment of Disease sent free. I. S. JOHNSON & CO., Boston, Mass.

for fowls with gizzards. The fact is, it is not grit at all, and is a very poor substitute for grit. Oyster shell in small quantities is dissolved by the acid juices of the crop, and supply lime for the phosphates needed for nourishing bones, feathers, claws and egg shells, but for grinding grain it is a failure. Small hard gravel or coarse flint sand, small iron nodules and fragments of broken stone are all good grit for fowls."

D. A. Mount, in *Rural New-Yorker*, says he thinks corn part of the time is a good grain for fowls, even if they do get a little fat on it. He further says: "An excellent feed for Light Brahmas part of the time is wheat in the straw; they will hustle around to get the grain and lay right along. Another breed that I find takes on fat readily is Plymouth Rocks, while White Wyandottes will keep in good condition and shell out eggs with a feed of lots of corn. The Leghorns and Minorcas, with unlimited range, could be fed almost wholly on corn, and would do well and lay nearly all the time."

Commercial Poultry says the true secret of feeding laying hens is to give them a little less than they would eat, and give them the greatest variety possible of feeds. It has been demonstrated that animal feed of some kind is necessary in winter. Corn, wheat, oats, sunflower seeds, vegetables of all kinds, should be fed when so great a variety can be obtained. No one of these feeds is absolutely necessary to success, except the animal feed, but the best results are always obtained when several kinds are given in rotation. A warm mash twice a week in the morning in winter, a little wheat and some vegetables during the day and corn at night, is the general rule. Here is some of *Rural New-Yorker's* fine reasoning:

"Take a bushel of wheat; with a hen at fair range the 60 pounds of wheat will provide a fair grain ration for at least 300 days. The hen might use more grain to advantage, but we know from experience that three and one-half ounces of wheat per day will keep the machine busy. The number of eggs obtained from the wheat, will of course, be determined largely by the breed and character of the hen, but even with a record of 75 eggs for the 300 days, the hen will give better returns than any other farm animal. Feed the bushel of wheat to a cow, and get the value of the milk and butter resulting from it, or to a hog, and see how much pork he makes. In nine cases out of ten you will find that the hen has paid a better price for the wheat than any of her competitors—including the miller. One reason for this is the fact that the egg is largely composed of water and lime—two substances which cost little or nothing. When man puts sand in his sugar, sawdust in his coffee and plaster in his flour, we find him if we can catch him at it. When the cow imitates the milkman and puts more water than the law allows into her milk, we beef her, and deny her the hope of posterity. We find no fault with the hen

when she packs the water inside her shell. In fact, it is as a packer that she excels, for she can put more culls into her basket and have them turn out good fruit than any other worker on the farm. She will take a bug, a worm, a blade of grass, a weed, seed, or a piece of bone and a few kernels of grain, and within thirty-six hours make them into an egg—its shell enclosing not only that which will nourish and sustain human life, but also the promised life of another hen. There can be no doubt that the hen not only contributes a vast sum to our National wealth, but that she can turn cheap and easily obtained wastes rapidly into human food. In this respect she stands at the head of all domestic animals—rivaling even the bee in such economy.

BIG MAIL for Poultrymen. Insert your name in our Poultry Directory and receive poultry papers, incubator catalogues, etc., every day. Only ten cts. silver. **POULTRY DIRECTORY CO., Goshen, Ind.**

1000 Head Fine Breeders

\$1.50 EACH.

Pure White Wyandottes, Mammoth Pekin Ducks, Red Belgian Hares. Great bargains. Fine R. I. Red Cockerels, at \$2.00 each. Green Cut Clover, new crop, one-eighth inch lengths, no long stems. \$1.50, 100 lbs., \$7, 500 lbs., \$25, 2000 lbs. Editor Boyer recommends our stock and uses our Cut Clover. Poultry Supplies. Circulars free. **NIAGARA FARM,** W. R. CURTISS & CO., Box 2, Ransomville, N. Y.

I. K. FELCH & SON,

Box K, Natick, Mass.

Light Brahmas, Plymouth Rocks,

White Wyandottes and

Belgian Hares.

Bred to lay eggs and to win. Write for just what you want. We can send it.



A Sick Hen

or a molting hen needs SHERIDAN'S CONDITION POWDER. It puts her in condition, makes the plumage grow quickly and gives the gloss so attractive in show birds.

Sheridan's CONDITION Powder

will make chickens healthy and keep them up to the mark. Makes young pullets early layers for October egg prices. If you can't buy it near home we will send one package 25 cents; five, \$1.00; 2 lb. can \$1.20; six, \$5.00. (Ex. paid. Sample poultry paper free.)

I. S. JOHNSON & CO., Boston, Mass.

Our Market Report.

An Accurate Account of the Highest, Lowest and Average Prices for the Best Market Stock, Paid During the Month of September—Goods Not up to the Standard Received Proportionately Less.

NEW YORK.

	Highest,	Lowest,	Av.,
Fresh eggs.....	22	18	20
Fowls, dressed.....	11 1-2	10 1-2	11
Spring ducks, dressed....	14	13	13 1-2
Old Roosters, dressed.....	7	6	6 1-2
Fowls, live.....	12	10 1-2	11 1-4
Roosters, live.....	8	6	7
Spring Chickens, live.....	12	12	12
Turkeys, live.....	10	10	10
Ducks, live, pair.....	.60	.50	.55
Geese, live, pair.....	\$1.25	\$1.00	\$1.12 1-2

PHILADELPHIA.

	Highest,	Lowest,	Av.,
Fresh Eggs.....	19	18	18 1-2
Hens, live.....	11	10 1-2	10 3-4
Hens, dressed.....	12	11 1-2	11 3-4
Old Roosters, live.....	9	7	8
Old Roosters, dressed.....	6 1-2	6 1-2	6 1-2
Western Sp'g Chickens, live	14	11	12 1-2
Nearby broilers.....	16	14	15
Fancy roasting Chickens..	16	15	15 1-2

BOSTON.

	Highest,	Lowest,	Av.,
Eggs, nearby and Cape	24	24	24
Chickens, dressed.....	20	18	19
Fowls, dressed	14	12	13
Roosters, dressed.....	7 1-2	7	7 1-4
Turkeys, old.....	10	8	9
Live Chickens.....	12	9	10 1-2
Live fowls.....	12	10	11

CHICAGO.

	Highest,	Lowest,	Av.,
Eggs, fresh.....	16	15 1-2	15 3-4
Chickens, hens, alive.....	8 1-2	7 1-2	8
Spring Chickens, live,....	10 1-2	10	10 1-4
Roosters, live.....	5	5	5
Ducks, live, old.....	7 1-2	7	7 1-4
Turkey hens, live.....	8 1-2	7 1-2	8
Turkey hens, live, young	9	9	9
Turkey gobblers, live.....	7	6	6 1-2

Molting Hens

If your hens are shedding their feathers and not laying, they are out of condition. The best poultry authorities say, "When hens are in condition they will lay perfect eggs and plenty of them." Then help them over molting time or your egg profit will be lost. SHERIDAN'S CONDITION POWDER will help the molting hens. The process of molting is a very exhausting one. The growing of new feathers requires all the nitrogen and phosphates in the food, so that there is an extra demand upon the strength. The elements needed by poultry at molting, in addition to good food, are contained in SHERIDAN'S CONDITION POWDER to a high degree. Thousands of poultrymen have proven it to be worth its weight in gold for molting hens.

When your hens show signs of molting, feed them once daily, in a hot bran mash, SHERIDAN'S POWDER as directed. Do this and you will have as others do who have tried the plan, an abundance of eggs to sell in the fall and winter months.

700 BROWN ECC

STRAIN BIRDS TO SELECT FROM.

Stay White Wyandottes, Red R. I. Reds, Mammoth Pekin Ducks (20 lbs. per pair). Pedigree bred by trap nests for heavy winter and all-year laying. 14 years bred in line for utility points. Our birds have the correct shape, size, color, mature and lay early, are full of vim. Manchester, N. H. shows, 1900, 1901, my Wyandottes won 1st, 3d, pens; 1st, 2d, 3d, cocks; (tied 1st) and won 2d, 3d, 4th, hens; 1st, 2, 3d, eggs; 11 specials. My Reds won 2d, pen; 2d, eggs and specials. My Pekins won 1st and specials. Scored 92 to 95 each. All bred and owned by me. Let me know your wants. Established 1887. C. E. DAVIS, Warner, N. H.

Notes in Passing.

News in the Market Poultry World—Hints that May be of Value—Paragraphs from Our Exchanges.

Maud Muller on a Summer's day
Set a hen in a brand new way.

(Maud, you see, was a city girl,
Trying the rural life a whirl).

She covered a box with tinsel gay,
Lined it snugly with new mown hay.

Filled it nicely with eggs, and then
Started to look for a likely hen.

Out of the flock selected one,
And then she thought that her work was done.

It would have been, but this stubborn hen
Stood up and cackled "Ka-doot!" and then

Maud Muller came, and in hurt surprise
Looked coldly into the creature's eyes;

Then tied its legs to the box. "You bet,
I know how to make you set."

But still it stood, and worse and worse
Shrieked forth its wrongs to the universe.

Kicked over the box with its tinsel gay,
And ignominiously flapped away.

Then a bad boy, over the barnyard fence,
Tee-heed: "Say Maud, there's a difference

'Tween hens, you know, and it is that
One says 'Ka-doot' and one 'Ka-dat!'"

Then Maud recalled that the ugly brute
She tried to set had said "Ka-doot!"

And ever since that historic day
She blushes in an embarrassed way

To think of the hobble she made once when
She tried to set a gentleman hen!

—Toronto Star.

Prepare for Winter.

Have conveniences.

Have working capital.

Don't delay those repairs.

Get the pullets into Winter quarters.

A victim of the "blues" is worth very little on the poultry farm.

A. F. Hunter has been appointed associate editor of the *Reliable Poultry Journal*.

No man can perform all the duties on a 1000-hen farm, and do his work as it should be done.

What sort of perches have you got? They should be broad, and not over two feet above the ground.

Now is a good time to build. After November 15th there is more or less danger of having dampness in the building.

Fowls need grit—and it would be a good idea if some of the poultrymen had a liberal supply of it in their own make-up.

"Cast your ill-bred chickens upon the waters—and let them drown," says *Rural New Yorker*. What's the matter with cutting their heads off?

"Did they 'mysteriously disappear?' Shoot the cat," says *Commercial Poultry*. Hold on, don't be so quick—it might have been rats or coons.

The White Wyandotte, according to the general demand, should be yellow-legged, white in plumage, lay brown eggs, and have a lay-down comb.

Wh. Wyandotte cockerels and pullets, Duston strain. Feb. hatch and later, \$2.00 each; trio \$5.00. Choice vigorous stock. E. L. HAYS, Box 93, Townville, Pa.

BUFF LEGHORNS. A few large, perfectly plumed cockerels reasonable. May 20 hatch. BION C. WILSON, St. Johnsville, N. Y.

RHODE ISLAND RED Cockerels for sale. April and May hatched. Satisfaction assured. Harry L. Bartholomew, Rural No. 1, Wallingford, Ct.

EXCHANGE. 100-egg Star Incubator in first-class order, for S. C. White Leghorn pullets. April or May-hatched. L. G. Hawks, Fishkill Landing, N. Y.

WANTED!

Money earns 50 per cent. if you order now. I have hundreds of young stock on free range that must be sold. Many are from my

Choice Exhibition Matings.

Line bred since 1892, and bred to win. Also great Egg Producers, bred from best laying hens, and earliest maturing pullets, mated with proper males, line bred since 1888. Hundreds of cockerels, \$2 to \$5. Pullets, \$1.50 to \$3. Special prices on pairs, trios and pens White Leghorns, Black Minorcas, Barred Rocks, White Rocks, White Wyandottes and Light Brahmas.

Elegant 32-page descriptive catalogue, free.

ELM POULTRY YARDS,

HARTFORD, CONN.

200 EGGS

A YEAR

PER HEN.

The high price of all kinds of feed this season makes it necessary to get as large an egg yield as possible. My book "200 Eggs a Year Per Hen," based on actual experience, will tell you how to get largest returns with least trouble and cost. Price 50 cts. The number of eggs additional you will get from one hen in course of year after reading book, will more than pay for it. Circular describing book free.

EDGAR WARREN, Wolfboro, N. H.

A Few Good Buff Rocks,

Buff Wyandottes and S. C. Wh. Leghorns for sale. Some good Cockerels very reasonable. Write. HENRY R. INGALLS, No. B, Nortonhill, N. Y.

Mountain View Farms White Leghorns

have been carefully selected and bred for over ten years for heavy laying by their owner, F. L. DuBOIS, on his farms at Loyd, N. Y.

Making Fancy Market Eggs a Specialty.

And after using stock from Burpee, Knapp Bros. and C. H. Wyckoff, since '95, on my original stock, which were good White Leghorns, and with the results they are giving, on my farms, and with others, I am fully convinced of having as good a strain of S. C. White Leghorns, for eggs, size and vigor, as there exists today, as a test will convince you. Half-grown cockerels my specialty just now, from \$1.00 to \$3.00 each.

HANAFORD'S Wachusett Strain White Wyandottes and R. I. Reds.

200 Breeding Cockerels at low prices. Correspond with me before purchasing elsewhere. Remember our pullets have records of 50 eggs in 53 consecutive days. 125 eggs five winter months.

219 EGGS PER YEAR.

If you wish to make money, can you improve your stock in any better way than by purchasing one of our large, vigorous, free range, farm grown cockerels?

FRED. A. HANAFORD,
Alder Brook Poultry Farm, South Lancaster, Mass.

If you have any cockerels in the cockerel pen that are cowed down by the bullies of the flock, remove them to the pullet pen so that they may have a chance to thrive.

Crude petroleum, colored with Spanish brown or Venetian red, makes a good paint for internal decorative work for chicken houses. *Texas Farm and Ranch* says it has insecticide properties and adds to the durability of the wood, and, besides, is very cheap.

The *Feather* says the real interest in poultry culture centers itself about the possibility of profit. Most assuredly those who devote their labor and skill in this direction would not do so from pleasure alone. It is a fact that unusual activity in poultry culture has attracted many, and created a desire for better information on the subject.

One of the most fruitful features of failures is that beginners usually fail to grasp the conditions and requirements in the way of work, says the Iowa *Homestead*. They fail to grasp that in this business there is as much need of skill, experience and common sense knowledge of the work as there is to run any other similar business. A banker may fail to rear poultry, and a poultryman may be unable to make good loans or manage a bank. It is easier to be successful with poultry in connection with running a bank, than it is for a poultryman to engage in the banking business as a side issue. We know of few poultrymen who are bankers as a side issue, while there are many bankers who engage in the poultry business for like reason. Reading books and papers is all right as far as it can go, but no one can give full directions how to be successful in the poultry business in a book or through papers. They may be, and are, very helpful, and all poultry breeders should have them.

THE CELEBRATED

Golden Egg Strain

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